

1 What is claimed is:

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3 1. An electronic transaction recording system for accumulating data from a printer
4 device, the system comprising:
5 a billing manager which manages the billing policies for the printer device;
6 a billing system which accumulates information on the occurrence of predetermined
7 events and generates an accounting of usage based on the accumulated information and
8 associates the accounting of usage with a predetermined unit of usage;
9 at least one database for storing a user's account information in terms of the
10 predetermined unit of usage; and
11 wherein the billing system periodically updates the user's account information and issues
12 an accounting of costs to the user.

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14 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined unit of usage is a token.

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16 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the billing manager includes an apparatus for
17 associating a predetermined number of tokens for each predetermined event and receiving from
18 each printer device the total number of predetermined events that took place at each printer
19 device and determining the token charge and assigning the token charge to an account.

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21 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a billing policies database, which includes
22 billing policies for the printer device such that the printer device uses at least one billing policy
23 to determine the cost of each operation, performed on the printer device.

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25 5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a mobile access unit coupled to the billing
26 manager.

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28 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the mobile access unit is selected from the group
29 consisting of a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a mobile computer.
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1 7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a user configuration unit coupled to the
2 billing polices database for updating and configuring billing polices for new users.

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4 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the billing system is selected from a back office billing
5 system and an Internet Settlement Model.

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7 9. An electronic transaction recording system for accumulating data from printer devices,
8 including a mobile access unit containing content which is to be printed, the system comprising:
9 a plurality of printer devices connected over a network, wherein each printer device can
10 receive the content from the mobile access unit and print the content in response to a
11 authorization process;

12 a billing manager coupled to the printer device and the mobile access unit for determining
13 the amount of printer usage and associating a predetermined amount of token values with the
14 costs of printing; and

15 a billing system for maintaining accounting records of user and associating user account
16 information with the value of the tokens and storing account information in an account records
17 database.

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19 10. The system of claim 9, further comprising a billing policies database, which includes
20 billing policies for the printer devices such that the each printer device uses at least one billing
21 policy to determine the cost of each operation, performed on the printer.

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23 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the mobile access unit is a personal digital assistant,
24 wireless telephone, mobile computer.

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26 12. The system of claim 12, wherein the mobile access unit transmits using a wireless
27 link.

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29 13. The system of claim 9, further comprising a user configuration unit coupled to the
30 billing polices database for updating and configuring billing polices for new users.

1 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the billing system can be either a back office billing
2 system or an Internet Settlement Model.

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4 15. A method for electronically recording transactions performed on at least one
5 predetermined printer device, such that the printer device is coupled to an mobile access unit
6 with transmits the content which is to be printed, comprising the steps of:
7 transmitting a print request to the billing manager;
8 retrieving billing policies for the printer device;
9 indicating to a user the cost for a desired print request such that the cost is determined by
10 associating a predetermined amount of token values with each particular operation performed by
11 the printer;
12 printing selected document at the predetermined printer device; and
13 generating an accounting of costs based on the usage of the predetermined printer device.

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15 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of authenticating the user's
16 identity by transmitting user credentials to the billing manager.

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18 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the billing manager associates a predetermined
19 number of tokens for each corresponding event and tabulates the number of events that occurred
20 during the printer operation and determining from that the token charge.

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22 18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of interfacing the printer device
23 with a billing manager in such a way that allows the mobile access unit to connect with the
24 billing manager.

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26 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of sending the accounting
27 information to a back office billing system which maintains accounting records of users and
28 periodically issues an accounting of costs to the user.

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30 20. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of storing users account
31 information in an account database and connecting the database to the billing manager.